

April 10, 1987

LB 78, 164, 307, 329, 358, 430, 456  
526, 587, 679

might just throw in a little aside here, and I know that Senator Warner probably agrees with me, but if we don't get some roads built in the rural Nebraska we may have to post those signs, ladies and gentlemen, at below 55 miles an hour because it will jar the fillings out of your teeth if you drive over them much faster than that. But, if you need to have a road posted for less than 55, you can do so for safety purposes, that can be done. It is being done now, of course, and can be done, if it's necessary, on greater stretches of road. I just want to have some equity, ladies and gentlemen, between rural Nebraska and the interstate system. I want to emphasize one more factor, and that is that if you enact the 5 mile per hour cushion and it becomes a part of the interstate system, you are going to increase the amount of traffic on the interstate, which is all right, but by volume of traffic alone then you will say we need to spend more money on the interstate and less money on the rural roads. So every single rural area legislator is going to be finding himself with fewer tax dollars eventually because of the pressure on the interstate. I emphasize once again why I think Senator Chambers' amendment makes sense, and that is because all of that area in Douglas County, which will now be subjected to a strict 55 mile per hour interpretation, you'd better come back, if you don't adopt the Chambers amendment, you had better come back and appropriate many hundreds of thousands of dollars additional for the Highway Patrol because you are going to have to have hundreds, if not thousands, of troopers out there to enforce that statute. If you don't enforce it, if you don't enforce it the public is going to thumb their nose at it, they are going to thumb their nose at it. If you want to be made real fools of yourselves, just enforce, say we are going to enforce a 55 mile an hour speed limit in downtown Omaha. It's not going to happen, ladies and gentlemen. That hasn't been true since the day they've built the thing. And they are making automobiles better, safer, highways are better and safer, enforcement is better so that we can police the thing better. I think the Chambers amendment makes a lot of sense and I think that my amendment makes a lot of sense. I appreciate and welcome Senator Elmer's support, and I hope that others will see the wisdom of it also.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and I do sign LB 78, LB 329, LB 164, LB 307, LB 358, LB 456, LB 526, LB 587, and LB 679. For purposes of discussion on the amendment to the amendment, Senator Hefner, your light is on, followed by Senators Marsh and Pappas.